



ATTORNEY-GENERAL  
THE HON ROBERT McCLELLAND MP

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ALGA MAIL
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Mr Geoff Lake  
President  
Australian Local Government Association  
8 Geils Court  
DEAKIN ACT 2600

2 NOV 2009

*Geoff Lake*  
Dear Mr Lake

Thank you for your letter of 18 September 2009 regarding ALGA consideration of resolution 28 passed at the 15<sup>th</sup> National General Assembly of Local Government.

In the 2009 Budget the Australian Government announced \$79.3 million over four years to strengthen efforts to prepare for and combat major natural disasters through the National Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP). This will bring the total funding for disaster mitigation works and support for volunteers in the emergency management sector over this period to approximately \$110 million.

The NDRP integrates a number of existing emergency management grant programs, providing the flexibility to effectively meet the requirements of local communities threatened by disaster in the strategic context of State/Territory risk priorities. The Program also streamlines the administration of various programs to enable more strategic and targeted use of the funds available for activities that enhance disaster resilience. A key aim of the NDRP is to enhance Australia's resilience to natural disasters through mitigation works, measures and related activities that contribute to safer, sustainable communities better able to withstand the effects of disasters, particularly those arising from the impact of climate change.

The Program will be administered as a partnership with States and Territories. Jurisdictions will provide the direct administration of the NDRP through a National Partnership Agreement on Natural Disaster Resilience (NPA). Funding for projects will be prioritised within States and Territories in the context of their natural disaster risk priorities. This recognises that different jurisdictions will have different priorities and that these may change over time.

The NPA also runs for a period of four years, so each State and Territory can program activities over that whole period, in partnership with their communities, including local governments.

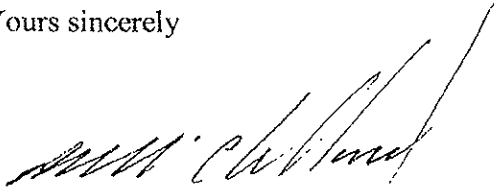
In terms of resolution 28 proposing 2:2:1 Federal/State/Local funding for flood mitigation activities, the NPA has been developed in accordance with the COAG *Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations* (IGA) which came into effect in January 2009. The IGA provides an overarching framework for the Commonwealth's financial relations with the States and Territories. This agreement reduces Commonwealth prescriptions on service delivery by the States and Territories and increases flexibility in the way they deliver services to the Australian people. The IGA states that 'national agreements will not include financial or other input controls imposed on service delivery', therefore the NDRP will not require 2:2:1 funding. Instead, the NPA promotes partnerships between all levels of government and other key stakeholders in emergency management, including volunteer organisations and the private and non-government sectors. More information about the new federal financial framework and the IGA is available in the COAG website ([www.coag.gov.au](http://www.coag.gov.au)).

I appreciate your specific interest in flood mitigation and recognise its significance. However, flooding needs to be considered in the context of all natural risks to all communities within each State and Territory. The NPA will facilitate this.

My Department is currently working with State and Territory governments to finalise the administration and funding arrangements for the NDRP. I expect that the Prime Minister and first ministers will sign the NPA as soon as possible after that. Details of the Program will then be available on the Emergency Management in Australia website ([www.ema.gov.au](http://www.ema.gov.au)).

The action officer for this matter in my Department is Peter Channells who can be contacted on 02 6141 4515.

Yours sincerely



Robert McClelland